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NATO HEADQUARTERS—SARAJEVO IN BOSNIA
AND HERZEGOVINA

Pursuant to the June 2004 decision made by NATO Heads of State and Government, and in accordance with U.N. Security Council Resolution 1575 of November 22, 2004, NATO concluded its Stabilization Force (SFOR) operations in Bosnia and Herzegovina and established NATO Headquarters—Sarajevo to continue to assist in implementing the Peace Agreement in conjunction with a newly established European Force (EUFOR). NATO Headquarters—Sarajevo, to which approximately 235 U.S. personnel are assigned, is, with EUFOR, the legal successor to SFOR. The principal tasks of NATO Headquarters—Sarajevo are providing advice on defense reform and performing operational supporting tasks, such as counterterrorism and supporting the International Criminal Tribunal for the Former Yugoslavia.

I have directed the participation of U.S. Armed Forces in all of these operations pursuant to my constitutional authority to conduct U.S. foreign relations and as Commander in Chief and Chief Executive. Officials of my Administration and I communicate regularly with the leadership and other Members of Congress with regard to these deployments, and we will continue to do so.

MEMORIAL DAY

Ms. STABENOW. Mr. President, I rise today to reflect on this year's Memorial Day and the importance of this holiday in American life.

As I attend Memorial Day parades and commemorations, I am struck by the spirit of national unity because I know that across Michigan and across our Nation our fellow Americans are taking part in similar gatherings where we take the time to reflect on our history and the sacrifice that brought us to where we are today.

Memorial Day is unique among American holidays. On Memorial Day we do not honor a particular date or event, a battle or the end of a war. On Memorial Day we do not honor an individual leader—a President or a general. On Memorial Day we do not even honor ourselves at least not in the present tense.

On Memorial Day we pay homage to the thousands and thousands of individual acts of bravery and sacrifice that stretch back to the battlefields of our revolution and to those taking place today in the deserts of Iraq and the mountains of Afghanistan.

This year, Memorial Day has a special significance as the 60th anniversary of the battle of Iwo Jima. This past February marks the dates in history that cost nearly 26,000 lives. The service members involved in that battle responded with courage and bravery. Iwo Jima is one of the most important battles of World War II. On behalf of a grateful Nation, we pay respect to the veterans of Iwo Jima and those who made the ultimate sacrifice.

This Memorial Day we also honor the men and women currently serving in Iraq and Afghanistan. We must honor

our commitment to them by making sure they have everything they need to complete their mission and come home safely. We must also keep our promises to those who proudly served our country by making sure they receive the benefits they deserve.

So, as we observe this holiday we call Memorial Day, let us remember the centuries of sacrifice by the many men and women that this day represents. And let's make sure that all who served with honor are honored in return.

ADDITIONAL STATEMENTS

THE PASSING OF GEORGE POOLE

• Mr. CRAIG. Mr. President, I have sought recognition to comment on the passing of a dedicated, 28-year employee of the Department of Veterans Affairs Insurance Center, Mr. George Poole. Until his untimely death, Mr. Poole served within the VA Insurance Service, widely regarded as a model of efficiency and service excellence within the Federal Government.

We in the Congress spent a considerable amount of time on the supplemental appropriations bill debating enhancements to insurance benefits for our servicemembers fighting abroad. We were successful in not only increasing the amount of life insurance benefits available for servicemembers, but also creating a new traumatic injury insurance benefit for those severely disabled. Without the assistance of public servants like George, who provide the Veterans' Affairs Committee, and the Congress, with invaluable technical assistance on all legislation affecting insurance benefits, our job would be very difficult.

George began his life-long dedication to public service while serving honorably in the U.S. Air Force from 1964 through 1968. Subsequent to his service, he then received a bachelor's degree and a law degree, taking full advantage of the Department of Veterans Affairs-administered GI bill. There is little doubt that his time in the military service of his country, and his subsequent studies under the GI bill, inspired him to pursue a career dedicated to helping his fellow veterans. This dedication to fellow veterans translated into a long and distinguished 28-year career with the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs where he served his Nation from 1977 until his death.

His long career with the Department of Veterans Affairs was entirely within the Insurance Service where he served in an impressive litany of capacities. Starting as a claims examiner in the death claims activity, he worked his way up through numerous management level positions including section chief, division chief and finally culminating his distinguished career as chief, program administration, a senior management position. In this, the final step in

his career ladder, he was responsible for a variety of duties, not the least of which was composing legislative initiatives concerning servicemembers' and veterans' group life insurance programs. This insurance coverage is intended for members of this Nation's Active-Duty military and Reserve components, as well as veterans recently released from Active service, who are in, or recently were in, harm's way defending the United States. The importance of assuring that all members of the military, veterans, and their families are properly provided for in their time of need goes without question. Therefore, George's work will undoubtedly have a lasting effect on the families of thousands.

I would like to extend my sincere appreciation on behalf of a grateful Nation to the Poole family for George's dedicated service to this Nation's veterans. I also extend my heartfelt sympathies to the Poole family during their time of sorrow. •

TRIBUTE TO GLENN D. CUNNINGHAM

• Mr. LAUTENBERG. Mr. President, Today I wish to pay tribute to one of New Jersey's most acclaimed advocates of social justice, mayor and State senator Glenn D. Cunningham, on the 1-year anniversary of his passing.

Although Glenn's life was tragically cut short by a heart attack, his extraordinary legacy of public service lives on. His remarkable accomplishments are surpassed only by the love he felt for his family, friends, and the people in the community he served.

A lifelong resident of Jersey City, Glenn demonstrated his sense of duty early in life, enlisting in the United States Marine Corps after he completed high school. He served his country with distinction for four years, and then continued his commitment to public safety by joining the Jersey City Police Department in 1967.

Aided by a strong work ethic and intelligence, Glenn rose through the ranks of the department over the next 25 years, attaining the position of Captain. Realizing the value of education and the power of ideas, during this same time period he attended Jersey City State College and earned a bachelor's degree, graduating cum laude in 1974.

Glenn had a passion for helping people and the ability to take on many diverse responsibilities and perform many tasks at once. He expanded his public service career in 1975, serving as a Hudson County Freeholder until 1978. He was subsequently elected to the Jersey City Council, where he served two consecutive terms, including one term as city council president.

Upon his retirement from the police department in 1991, Glenn was appointed the director of the Hudson County Department of Public Safety.

In 1996, President Clinton appointed Glenn as United States Marshall for